

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 are rejected. Claims 7-9 are objected to.

Claim 7 has been amended to independent form. Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 7. Claim 7-9 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claim 5 is amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim of Priority

Applicant claims foreign priority from Japanese Application 2000-295841 filed on September 28, 2000. A certified copy of the priority document was submitted with the filing of this application.

It is respectfully requested priority be acknowledged together with receipt of the priority document.

Prior Art Rejections

In the Office Action claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanabe et al. (U.S. 5,333,131) (Tanabe) and claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanabe in view of Segal (U.S. 5,737,404).

Applicant's claimed invention, for example claim 1, includes routing data generators associated with respective ones of line speed. In particular the main controller has the routing data generators and the line interface adds a line identifier onto a destination address of a packet that arrives from a line so that the routing-data request is created and requests said main controller to be notified of routing data.

Tanabe describes an ATM switch and a group of local nodes are connected to a packet network through subscriber lines.

The Office Action points to col. 6, lines 55-67 to show the feature of the data generators. However this section only describes extracting the VCI/VPI for accessing the label conversion circuit 26. There is no description of routing data generators associated with respective ones of line speed.

In Tanabe, as shown in Fig. 2 and described in the specification a local unit 1-1 having an ATM switch structure, a line interface 8a-1 changes a VPI/VCI attached to a header of an input cell, attaches a routing tag (port number PT) to the header of this input cell and supplies this cell to a self-routing switch 3-1. The switch 3-1 sends the cell to an output line indicated by the tag so that it is transferred toward a transit node 2-n.

In the transmit node 2-1 having an ATM switch structure, a route management processor 7-1 obtains a port number corresponding to a destination local node number of the cell which is input from the local unit 1-1 by way of a line interface 8c-1 and a self-routing switch 4-1. Then the route management processor 7-1 attaches this port number to the cell and inputs this cell to the self-routing switch 4-1. The self-routing switch 4-1 transfers the cell toward the destination local node.

Segal discloses a system provided with a redund structure that has two 557-message transport protocol level three processing modules (MTPL3 processing modules).

However unlike the claimed invention, the ATM switch taught by Tanabe does not include routing data generators associated with respective ones of line speed. As a result, Tanabe does not teach the features of the amended claim 1 at all. They are:

- 1: a main controller has routing generators that are associated with respective ones of line speeds;
- 2: a line interface adds a line identifier for identifying a line from which a packet arrives, onto said routing-data request; and
- 3: the main controller responds to the routing-data request by generating routing data from whichever routing data generator corresponds to a line speed indicated by said line identifier and sending this routing data to the line interface that is the requesting source.

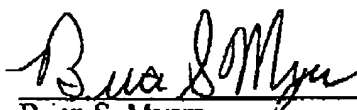
Because of applicant's unique combination of features recited in claim 1, various benefits described in the first and second paragraph are attained.

For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully submitted the rejections should be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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Docket No.: FUSA 18.263 (100807-16888)
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